

BOOK REVIEW

WOLFGANG STUPPY AND ROB KESSELER. 2008. **Fruit: Edible, Inedible, Incredible.** (ISBN 978-1-554-07405-1, hbk.). Firefly Books Inc., P.O. Box 1338, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205, U.S.A. (**Orders:** service@fireflybooks.com, 1-800-387-5085, 1-800-565-6034 fax). \$60.00, 264 pp., selection of color images, preface, and appendices, 11 ¼" × 12 ½".

Fruit: Edible, Inedible, Incredible consists of numerous color images that vary from those taken with light and scanning electron microscopy to flash photography that have been digitally enhanced to artist's impressions. These images are beautiful to say the least and will draw any reader's attention to the exquisite detail of the particular specimen. Stuppy and Kessler also provide detailed descriptions of the plant, fruit, or insect that is imaged. Throughout the book, the authors are determined to specifically define a fruit, explain how it is formed, as well as give more information on the wide variety of forms that are found in nature.

Stuppy, a seed morphologist, explains the true story of why fruits are important: simply for the seeds that are found within. Fruits and seeds have forged a partnership to help continue plant survival. One can see this through the diverse methods that have been developed to disperse seeds via wind, water, animal, insect, etc. All of this information is easily seen through the images that Kessler provided.

This book would make a wonderful coffee table collection for anyone. Young and old will be enthralled by the simple stories that these images share and the information that has been provided. Overall, this book was very easy to understand, and I would easily suggest this for a person interested in learning more about the wide variety of fruits or simply interested in nature photography.—Keri McNew Barfield, MS Biology, Research Programs Manager, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 E 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.